EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Judy M. Kadoura (Reg. # 59,883) on April 23, 2008.

In the claims:

- Please cancel claims 60-64 and amend claims 36, 45, 55 and 59 as follows:

36.   (Currently Amended)   A method for establishing a data conference between one or more intranet computing systems and one or more external computing systems, the method comprising:

receiving a request <u>at a lobby server</u> to establish a data conference from a
    conference organizing computing system in an intranet, <u>wherein the</u>
    <u>lobby server is logically in a demilitarized zone between the intranet</u>
    <u>and an external network;</u>

determining that the conference organizing computing system is
    authorized to establish the data conference;

establishing a lobby <u>in the demilitarized zone</u> to which potential
    participating computing systems in the external network are
    admitted awaiting authorization to join the data conference; and

subsequent to establishing the lobby,

receiving a request to join the data conference from a potential participating computing system in the external network;

admitting the requesting potential participating computing system to the lobby;

notifying the conference organizing computing system that the requesting potential participating computing system has requested to join the data conference;

receiving an indication from an intranet computing system that the requesting potential participating computing system is authorized to join the data conference; and

subsequent to receiving the indication, joining the requesting potential participating computing system to the data conference;

wherein the potential participating computing system in the external network requesting to join the data conference is placed in a lobby until the conference organizing computing system indicates that the potential participating computer system is authorized to join the data conference.

45.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a lobby server that is logically located within a buffer zone between an intranet and an external network, cause the lobby server to:

receive a request to establish a data conference from a conference organizing computing system in the intranet;

determine whether the conference organizing computing system is authorized to establish the data conference;

establish a lobby within the buffer zone to which potential participating computing systems in the external network are admitted to await authorization to join the data conference;

intercede a request to join the data conference from a potential
  participating computing system in the external network;

admit the potential participating computing system to the lobby;

notify the conference organizing computing system that the potential
  participating computing system has requested to join the data
  conference;

receive an indication from an intranet computing system that the potential
  participating computing system is authorized to join the data
  conference; and

subsequent to receiving the indication, join the potential participating
  computing system to the data conference.

55.   (Currently Amended)   A system comprising:

an intranet;

a lobby server that establishes a data conference in response to receiving
  a request from a conference organizing computing system to
  establish a data conference for an intranet computing system and a
  computing system in an external network, wherein the lobby server
  is located within a demilitarized zone between the intranet and the
  external network;

wherein, in response to receiving a request to join the data conference
  from the computing system in the external network, the lobby
  server performs a method comprising:

  notifying the conference organizing computing system that the
              computing system in the external network has
              requested to join the data conference;

  admitting the computing system in the external network to a lobby
              located within the demilitarized zone to which
              potential participating computing systems in external
              network are admitted awaiting authorization to join the
              data conference;

in response to receiving an indication that the computing system is authorized to join the data conference, joining the computing system to the data conference.

59.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the lobby server to perform the method recited in <u>claim 36</u>.

60-64 (Canceled).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 36-59 (renumbered 1-24) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record taken singularly or in combination fairly taught or suggested the combined functional limitations of establishing a data conference between at least one intranet communication devices and at least one external communication devices by receiving a request at a lobby server logically deployed in a demilitarized zone between the intranet and an external network, to establish a data conference from a conference organizing computing system in an intranet, verifying that the conference organizing computing system is authorized to establish the data conference; establishing a lobby in the demilitarized zone to which potential participating communication devices in the external network are admitted awaiting authorization to join the data conference; and subsequent to establishing the lobby, receiving a request to join the data conference from a potential participating computing system in the external

network; admitting the requesting potential participating computing system to the lobby; notifying the conference organizing computing system that the requesting potential participating computing system has requested to join the data conference; receiving an indication from an intranet computing system that the requesting potential participating computing system is authorized to join the data conference; and subsequent to receiving the indication, joining the requesting potential participating computing system to the data conference as recited in the claims. The claimed invention is fully supported by the specification of this instant application (see Figs. 2-3, Page 13 ¶ [0028] through Page 19 ¶ [0045]).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yemane Mesfin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3927. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Y. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2144

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144